

Dear Sen. Looney, Sen. McCrory, Sen. Cassano, Sen. Lesser, Sen. Abrams, Sen. Moore, Sen. Conley, Sen. Osten, Sen. Bello, Sen. Duff, Sen. Anwar, Sen. Kushner, Sen. Flexer, Sen. Bradley, Sen. Slap, Sen. Winfield, Sen. Haskell, Sen. Cabrera, Sen. Kasser, Rep. Simms, Rep. Turco

Thank you for your consideration of improving the Birth to Three System in Connecticut. B23 is an essential service to help families and children with special needs at the beginning of their journey. However, it is important to remove any barriers to family's participation.

Parent fees are a barrier to some families, and they may have to choose between paying for services and household needs. I knew of a family who had to choose between fixing their car or paying the parent fee. It was very stressful for them to feel they were not able to fully support their child's needs, due exclusively to money

There are already so many barriers that prevent families from referring or using B23 that if we could remove the financial burden it would be one less reason for them to consider not engaging in the process. It is emotional and many people would like to avoid the emotional piece. However, it is critical for the child to receive the services as early as possible, so we need to remove all potential barriers.

We found during the pandemic how important the consistent B23 services were to children and families and that is the goal in having children with summer birthdays hold off on transitioning until the fall. They should be able to transition to a program without waiting a long period of time, and many children with summer birthdays go from receiving regular services to nothing because of the summer. Summer services in Extended School Year are often much shorter and the children really need to continue interventions seamlessly until they can enter a consistent school-based program.

Sincerely,

Leona Adamczyk

Parent

SICC- Vice Chair